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From Tuesday December 9. to Saturday December 13. 1718.

Westminster, December 12.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Sanderson, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for granting to His Majesty an Aid by a Land-Tax to be raised in Great Britain for the Service of the Year 1719.

An Act for continuing the Duties on Malt, Mum, Cyder and Perry for the Service of the Year 1719; *and for enlarging the Time for entring at the Exchequer such Assignments of Reversionary Annuities as are therein mentioned; and for better securing the Duties on Hides and Skins, Vellom and Parchments.*

Naples, Nov. 28. On the 26th Captain Field with the English Men of War and most of the Transports from Genoa, which had been 34 Days at Sea from that Place, put in here for want of Water and Provisions, but being watered and victualled, sailed the 25th for Melazzo. This Day came off this Place the Leopold Man of War with the remaining Transports and Barks, which in bad Weather had been separated from the Convoy, and they are ordered to proceed to Melazzo forthwith. On the 16th General Znmjungen sailed from Baya with a Number of Transports having Troops on board for Melazzo, where he now commands in chief. The Spaniards have not made any Attack upon that Place, but have been wholly taken up with fortifying the Intrenchments that defend their Camp. Sir George Byng has sent three Men of War to look into the Roads of Cagliari and Barcelona. There are above 3000 German Soldiers at Corfu, who were in the Service of the Venetians; the Court of Vienna has given Orders for their being received into the Emperour's Service, and employed in Sicily. A Convoy will be sent for them forthwith. There are three more Regiments of German Foot coming from the Milaneze to be employed on the same Service.

Paris, Dec. 14. The Abbot Brigaud having been seized at Nemours, has been brought Prisoner to the Bastile. He was intirely in the Counsels and Confidence of the Prince de Cellamare, who upon the first Notice of the siezing of his Packets on the Abbot Portocarrero, immediately gave him Warning to abscond. He had been always a very busy Agent for the Pretender, and accompanied him from St. Malo to Dunkirk when he imbarked for Scotland. He has been twice under Examination since his Confinement. Yesterday the Prince de Cellamare set out from hence for Blois, to be conducted to Spain by the Way of Bayone.

Hague, Dec. 16. On the 7th Instant died Baron Heems, the Emperour's Envoy to this State, much lamented by all who knew him for his good Qualities. His Body having been embalmed, has been carried from hence in a Yacht to Rotterdam, where it is to be put aboard another Vessel for Brussels, to be interred there, it being the Place of his Nativity. A Number of Merchant Ships being ready to sail from Amsterdam and other Ports of Holland, for Spain and the Mediterranean, with all sorts of Ammunition and Stores for Sea and Land Service, the Merchants concerned therein have been this Week past earnestly solliciting a Convoy of four or five Men of War; but the States General have not yet thought fit to come to any Resolution upon it. In the mean time the Marquess de Prié has written a Letter to the Greffier Fagel, to be laid before the States General, in which he presses their High Mightinesses to give immediate and effectual Orders for hindring their Subjects from furnishing the Emperour his Master's Enemies with Stores of War, desiring them to reflect what Measures they themselves would take in the like Case, and what all Soveraigns do usually take in it, according to the Maritime Laws and the Rights of Nations. On the 12th the Deputies who are to sign the Convention relating to the Barrier-Treaty were named, and their Full Powers signed. Though all possible Diligence has been used, in getting the Instruments for that Convention ingrossed, and a State of the General Account settled by it prepared, they will not however be ready till to Morrow Noon, which Time is appointed for signing them; and the Marquess de Prié intends to go back to Brussels a Day or two after. The States of Holland have had for some Days under their Deliberation a great Point of Privilege, occasioned by a Petition to them from M. Van Ley, Burgomaster of Leyden, complaining that notwithstanding his being a Member of the States of the Province, he had been cited by the ordinary Court of Justice of Holland to Answer to an Accusation brought against him for Mismanagement in the Discharge of his Office of *Heimrath*, or Supervisor of the Dykes in the Quarter of Rhinlandt, in which Quality he pretended to be accountable for his Conduct and Behaviour only to the States of the Province or to his own [illegible], wherefore he had refused to obey the Citation of the said ordinary Court of Justice. As this is Matter of Privilege, in which all the Members of the States of this Province are highly concerned, and the first of this Nature that ever came before them, they were not a little perplexed what Resolution to take; and several of the Deputies went to their Towns, to be fully instructed of the Intentions of their Principals; but in an Assembly of the said States held the 13th, the Point of Privilege insisted on by M. Van Ley, of being judged by his own Town, or by the States of the Province, was determined against him by a Majority of Voices, though the Town of Amsterdam and seven others protested in his Favour. He has since appeared before the Court of Justice of Holland, and given in his Answers to the several Articles exhibited against him. A few Days ago the States of Holland took into Consideration a Letter from the King of Prussia, by which his Majesty refused to submit his Claim to that Part of the Succession of Orange which lies in these Countries, to the Decision of the ordinary Courts of Judicature; and they came to a Resolution to return for Answer to the said Letter, that they would assert the Right of their Soveraignty, and leave the Course of Justice in their Province free to all. A Swedish Privateer called the Postillion, having 200 Men on board, has taken upon these Coasts 11 Dutch Ships coming from Bourdeaux with Wines and Brandies, and bound for Amsterdam and Rotterdam. There is Advice, that the Magistrates of Dantzick being compelled by their Burghers, have ordered all the Dutch Merchants settled there, to depart within a certain limited Time, or submit to the Payment of the same Taxes and Imposts to which those Burghers are subject. A most infamous Libel, containing several scandalous Reflections on his Britannick Majesty's Speech to his Parliament, and the Addresses of both Houses, having been dispersed here; the Earl of Cadogan and M. Whitworth have complained of it to the

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